3 ~~18.~~ (new) The tablet according to Claim ~~17~~ wherein the oxacarbazepine has a median particle size of approximately 6 µm to 8 µm.

4 ~~19.~~ (new) The tablet according to Claim ~~16~~ wherein the oxacarbazepine has a maximum residue on a 40 µm sieve of less than or equal to 2%.

5 ~~20.~~ (new) The tablet according to Claim ~~16~~ wherein the hydrophilic permeable coating comprises white pigments and iron oxide pigments.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, applicants have canceled Claims 11-15 and added new Claims 16-20. Support for applicants' new Claims 16-20 are found in canceled Claims 11-15, and in applicants' specification, as originally filed, on page 2, 16-20.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11-15 under 37 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourquin US 5,472,714.

Bourquin states in column 1, lines 15-21, that tablets containing oxcarbazepine have a stability problem in that during storage at room temperature, an inhomogeneous, faintly orange discoloration of the original white tablet is observed. The unwanted discoloration is caused by the formation of an oxidation product of oxcarbazepine. In order to overcome the discoloration problem and provide color stable tablets, Bourquin teaches a double layered oxcarbazepine tablet. As stated in column 1, lines 50-62, the tablet comprises oxcarbazepine, a hydrophilic permeable inner layer, and a hydrophilic permeable outer layer.

In contrast to the teachings of Bourquin, Applicants have unexpectedly determined that only one hydrophilic coating is necessary provided that the oxacarbazepine has a median particle size of approximately 2 µm to 12 µm, and a maximum residue on a 40 µm sieve of less than or equal to 5%. As stated in applicants' specification on page 2, lines 16-20, applicants' achieve color stability using only a single coating rather than a double coating. Applicants' claims, as amended, specify that a single hydrophilic coating is applied over the tablet core. Thus, Bourquin which teaches a